

[English]

Complaints Received in Kendriya Bhandar

3834. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) number of complaints received by the General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi from December, 1995 to November, 1996 regarding less weighment of Rationed Articles;

(b) the names of the branches about which the complaints were received and action taken against guilty officials;

(c) the number of cases in which acknowledgement to complainants were sent, but final reply about action taken or proposed to be taken has not been sent so far; and

(d) the time by which the management propose to expedite replies in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Two such complaints were received in respect of Vasant Vihar and Kali Bari Stores. The Store Incharge of the Vasant Vihar Store was cautioned to pay personal attention to the performance of the weighing machines. However, disciplinary proceedings are being initiated against the concerned employees of the other Store.

(c) and (d). Reply has been sent in regard to the first complaint. It remains the endeavour of the management to send replies in such cases as early as possible.

Power Policy

3835. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWLAY :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh initiatives has been taken by the Union Government in consultation with the Chief Ministers and Energy Ministers of State Governments to consider indepth various bottlenecks in formulation and implementation of policies in power sector;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the meeting;

(c) whether any time bound action plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A draft Common National Action Plan on Power was considered in a meeting of the Chief Ministers/Energy Ministers of States held on 3.12.1996.

Finalisation of the Action Plan, based on the suggestions received during the Chief Ministers Conference, is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

FPI in Bihar

3836. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up food processing unit in the North Bihar in view of the good crops of mango, lichi, banana etc.; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above proposal is likely to be given clearance and the places at which such units are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). The Ministry does not set up any food processing unit directly in any State. However, since liberalisation, most of the food processing industries are delicensed and in such cases, the entrepreneur is required to file only an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum. As per information available, since liberalisation till October '96, 30 IEMs involving an investment of about Rs. 250 crores and envisaging employment of 2597 persons for setting up food processing units in Bihar have been filed. Out of this, 2 IEMs involving an investment of Rs. 19 crores and employment of 182 persons have already been implemented at Santhal Parganas and Sitamarhi.

Besides, approvals are granted by the Government for setting up food processing industries in joint venture, foreign collaboration, 100% EOU etc. 7 such approvals involving an investment of about Rs. 33 crores have also been grants for setting up food processing units in Bihar. These units are proposed to be located at Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur and Samastipur.

[English]

Natural Gas

3837. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of natural gas has so far been exploited from the wells in Tripura; and

(b) whether the ONGC has not taken any initiatives to supply gas for Ramchandra Nagar and third unit of Rokhia Gas Based Power Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Around 108 million cubic meters of gas has been produced in Tripura so far in the current financial year.

(b) Both ONGC and GAIL are taking steps for the supply of gas to NEEPCO, Ramchandra Nagar and additional gas to TSED Rokhia.

Commission to Petrol, Diesel Retail Outlets Owners

3838. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the owners of petrol and diesel retail outlets have demanded the higher commission due to increase in the transportation charges;

(b) if so, the details of demand; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) to (c). Various representations have been received for revising the rates of commission. Accordingly, a Committee has been constituted to examine the demands raised by the Dealers/Distributors for revision in the commission.

Posting of Section Officers

3839. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TEWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether section officers on promotion to Grade-I are posted outside their Ministry?

(b) whether there is an exception for those who have completed 50 years of age; and

(c) whether similar exception be allowed to the officers who are holding the ex-cadre posts on deputation basis, convertible in CSS, if they are handling the job of Deputy Liaison Officer for SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). On promotion to Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service (Under Secretary level), a Section Officer is compulsorily transferred out of the Ministry only if he has more than 8 years of service left for superannuation. This also applies to Section Officers holding ex-cadre posts on their promotion to Grade-I of the Central Secretariat Service.

Vacant Posts of IAS and IPS

3840. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :

COL. RAO RAM SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several posts of IAS/IPS are lying vacant in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). Posts in the All India Services comprise direct recruitment and promotion posts. Direct Recruitment posts are filled up in consultation with the State Governments on the basis of the merit list of the Civil Services Examination in respect of the IAS and IPS, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

Promotion posts are filled up in accordance with the Promotion Regulations, from out of eligible candidates from the States Services, as and when vacancies arise in the promotion quota.

This is an ongoing process, with the possibility of short term vacancies arising due to promotions, transfers, training, casualties, etc. of officers.

Income Criteria

3841. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Training issued O.M. No. 36012/22/93- dated 8.9.1993 stating therein that "The income criteria in terms of rupee will be modified taking into account the change in its value every three years. If the situation, however, so demands the interregnum may be less";

(b) whether the Government have since modified the upper limit of income for deciding the "creamy layer";

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to undertake this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). No revision of the income criteria has been considered so far because the specified time limit has just expired.

[Translation]

Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells

3842. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding the research work relating to Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells of 1992;